



Sulkhan-Saba Orbeliani
UNIVERSITY

Sulkhan-Saba Orbeliani University

PhD Education Program

Name of the Program	Theology
Program Director	Professor Vazha Vardidze
The language of instruction	Georgian
Qualification Granted	Doctor of Theology (Ph.D.)
Volume of the Program in credits	58 ECTS
Program approval date and protocol number	26.04.2021 N°05-21
Program update date and protocol number	14.07.2022 N04-22

Program Objective

The objective of the PhD Program in Theology is:

- (A) In-depth scholarly analysis, results-oriented research, and the creation of new knowledge on current issues in systematic theology and the history of theology;
- (B) To train researchers and academic staff focused on the challenges of systematic theology, the history of theology, and the Church
- (C) To contribute to the development of theology by creating high quality scientific papers.

Learning outcomes

Graduate will be able to:

- (A) Identifies problematic issues in the direction of systematic theology and the history of theology based on the original texts and proven by the teaching of the Church, as well as based on the latest theological scientific approaches;
- (B) critically analyzes and synthetically evaluates new, complex, and conflicting ideas and approaches;
- (C) participates in international conferences, engages in scientific debate in accordance with the standards of refereed publications, plans and conducts innovative academic lectures and seminars using modern teaching methods, publishes high-level scientific papers;
- (D) Identifies the problems of systematic theology and the history of theology, observing academic ethics and integrity, develops independent and original ways of solving theological scientific problems, takes academic responsibility for the research results.

Program Admission Requirement

A Master's/Master's equivalent academic degree in theology or humanities is a prerequisite for admission to the program. A person with a master's/master's degree in the field of humanities is obliged to pass a written examination in theology.

A doctoral student enrolled in the program, who does not have a bachelor's degree in theology, must take the following courses from the programs of Sulkhan-Saba Orbelian University: Patrology; fundamental theology; Introduction to the Bible; modern western theology; Modern Orthodox Theology; Early and medieval church history, ancient and medieval philosophy history, modern and modern church history. After completing the training courses, the doctoral student will not be awarded study credits and points. The course is considered successfully completed upon receiving a positive assessment provided by the relevant syllabus.

In order to be admitted to the doctoral program, it is necessary to have an interview with the field commission and to have at least B2 level of English/German or French. Other prerequisites for admission to the doctoral program, as well as the evaluation criteria of the applicant for admission to the doctoral program by the sectoral commission, are determined by the regulations of the doctoral program.

It is possible to enroll in the doctoral educational program of theology on a mobility basis twice a year, within the terms established by the legislation of Georgia and in accordance with the established rules. Applicants for mobility must meet all mandatory prerequisites for admission to the doctoral program.

Enrollment in the doctoral educational program of theology, or enrollment in the manner of transfer from a recognized higher educational institution of a foreign country, is carried out within the terms established by the legislation of Georgia and in accordance with the established procedure.

Candidates who have a certificate of English/German/French language proficiency at least B2 level are exempted from English/German/French language testing, as well as candidates who have completed a full or partial bachelor's or master's course in English/German/French. The language center of Sulkhan-Saba Orbelian University ensures the recognition of certificates and courses. Recognition of certificates and courses is provided by the Language Center of Sulkhan-Saba Orbeliani University.

List of the certificates and scores for English Language B2 level

TOEFL (TOEFL PBT)	Points required: not less than 513 points
TOEFL (TOEFL IBT)	Points required: not less than 65 points
British Council and Cambridge University English a foreign Exams (IELTS)	Points required: not less than 5.5 points
British Council and Cambridge University English Language Exams (Cambridge Exam)	Level of knowledge: not less than FCE

List of the certificates and scores for German Language B2 level

Goethe Zertifikat B2; TestDaF B2; DSH Certificate B2; Telc Deutsch B2; TestAS B2

List of the certificates and scores for French Language B2 level

Delf B2; TCF B2; TEF B2; DLC B2; Dalf C1

Teaching and learning methods

lecture working in a group Practical work Colloquium Teaching by online resources
Online teaching other

Evaluation system for student's knowledge

Learning component of the PhD Program in Theology implies the active participation of students in the teaching process and is based on the principle of continuous assessment of acquired knowledge. In the implementation process of the PhD Program in Theology, the level of achievement of a student's learning outcomes shall be evaluated according to the evaluation system approved by the Order N3 of January 5, 2007 of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia "On the Rule of Calculation for Higher Education Programs with Credits".

In the learning component of the PhD Education Program in Theology, the evaluation of the level of learning outcomes achievement by the student includes following assessment forms - midterm (one time or multiple) and final examination (a specific course may be built on a different principle), the sum of which is the final mark (100 points).

Midterm and final evaluations (evaluation forms) include the evaluation component/components, which determine the means of evaluation of a student's knowledge and/or skill and/or competences (oral/written examination, oral/written testing, homework, practical/theoretical work and etc.). The evaluation component combines the unified evaluation methods (test, essay, demonstration, presentation, discussion, performance of practical/theoretical task, working in a group, participation in discussions, solving cases, participation in mock trials etc.). The evaluation method/methods are measured by the evaluation criteria, i.e. by a measurement unit of the assessment method, which determines the level of learning outcomes achievement.

Out of the total score (100 points), a certain share is assigned for each form and component of assessment in the final evaluation, which is envisaged in the specific syllabus and notified to the student in the beginning of the academic semester. Credit should not be granted using only one form of assessment (midterm or final assessment). Student shall be assigned a credit only if he/she gets a positive evaluation.

During the implementation of the PhD Educational Program in Theology, the share of the minimum competence threshold of the student's midterm and final evaluations are reflected in the specific syllabus and notified to the student in the beginning of each academic semester.

The evaluation system allows:

5 types of positive evaluation:

(A) Excellent	91-100 points
(B) Very Good	81 - 80 points out of maximum score;
(C) Good	71 - 80 points out of maximum score;
(D) Satisfactory	61 - 70 points out of maximum score;
(E) Sufficient	51 - 60 points out of maximum score.

Two types of negative evaluation:

(FX) Unsatisfactory	41-50 score of of total evaluation, meaning that a student requires more work to pass and is given the right to attempt an additional examination by means of independent work;
(F) Failed	(F) Failed – 40 and less points that means the work of the student is not sufficient and he/she has to retake the course.

In the learning component of the educational program, in case of getting FX, an additional exam will be appointed no later than within 5 calendar days upon announcement of the final exam results. The amount of points in the final evaluation is not added to the evaluation, received by a student at the additional examination. The evaluation obtained during the final exam is the final one and it will be reflected in the final evaluation of the teaching component of the educational program. Considering the evaluation of the additional exam, if a student gets 0-50 points in the final evaluation of the educational component, he/she will be given a grade of F-0.

Evaluation of Doctoral Thesis (Dissertation)

Five positive and two negative evaluations are used to evaluate the dissertation.

The positive evaluation of a thesis paper is provided according to the following system:

- a. a) Excellent (summa cum laude) - excellent work - 91% and more of the maximum assessment;
- b. b) Very good (magna cum laude) – result, which exceeds the defined requirements in all aspects - 81-90% and more of the maximum assessment;
- c. c) Good (cum laude) – the result, which exceeds the defined requirements - 71-80% of the maximum assessment;
- d. D) Medium (bene) - the result that meets all the defined requirements in all respects - 61-70% of the maximum assessment;
- e. E) Satisfactory (rite) – the result, that despite its deficiencies, still meets the defined requirements - 51-60% of the maximum assessment;

The negative evaluation of a thesis is provided according to the following system:

- a. F) Unsatisfactory (insufficenter) - a result that fails to meet the defined requirements due to major deficiencies - 41-50% of the maximum assessment;
- b. Completely insufficient (sub omni canone) - the result that completely fails to meet the defined requirements - 40% and less of the maximum assessment.

In case of receiving a positive evaluation, the dissertation is considered defended.

In case of unsatisfactory (insufficenter) evaluation, a doctoral student is given the right to present a revised thesis during one year. For that purpose, he/she shall, within a month after the result is announced, have the right to file an application to the secretariat of the dissertation committee requesting the revision and repeated defense of the thesis.

In case of a completely unsatisfactory (sub omni canone) assessment, the doctoral student loses the right to present the same dissertation paper.

Employment field:

The field of employment of the Doctor of Theology is not diverse. In addition to church institutions, as well as establishments and agencies where it is possible to get a job in the mentioned field, the Doctor of Theology additionally opens the way to higher education institutions (at the academic positions of assistant professors, associate professors and professors), research organizations, international academic associations.

Possibility to pursue studies

The Doctor of Theology can take an active part in postdoctoral programs, obtain postdoctoral research and educational grants both nationally and internationally, and benefit exclusively from grants and scholarships provided for postdoctoral students and young researchers by universities and research foundations.

Material resource necessary for the program implementation

To achieve the learning outcomes envisaged by the PhD Program in Theology, the University ensures unhindered access to its infrastructure and material and technical resources for the students. Namely:

lecture halls and conference rooms equipped with the proper inventory;

library and reading rooms equipped with computer technologies and information-communication technologies;

computer classes, computer devices switched to the internet and internal network, adequate software for teaching/learning process;

computer classes, computer devices switched to the internet and internal network, adequate software for teaching/learning process; various technical devices etc.

The academic program is ensured with the respective books and methodology literature. The university library provides the students with the printed and electronic books envisaged by the syllabuses of the teaching courses, also with the book fund data base of the library and electronic catalog posted on the university website.

Material resources owned by the University ensure realization of the goals of the PhD Education Program in Theology and achievement of the set learning outcomes:

Buildings-premises - PhD Education Program in Theology is implemented at the buildings and premises owned by the University, where sanitary-hygienic and security norms are protected (alarm signals are installed at the buildings, there are fire extinguishers, the premises are controlled by the video surveillance , the order is protected by the security employee of the University). The building fully meets the technical requirements established for the higher educational institutions. Classrooms, designated for lecturing and practical training, are equipped with appropriate technical resources and inventory (projectors, chairs, desks, blackboards, etc.).

Library- The University library has the printed and electronic fund appropriate for the PhD program. It is accessible for the students, invited and academic personnel. The library has a reading room equipped with appropriate inventory (chairs, tables, computers). The library has a multi-functional copy machine and a student can use it with the help of library staff. In the reading hall, students have the opportunity to use the internet and various international electronic resources (Legislative Herald, EBSCO, HeinOnline). The University library has an online catalog. In addition to the central reading hall, PhD students can also use the reading rooms named after Davit Batonishvili and the Zubalashvili brothers.

Working space for academic personnel - The working environment is equipped with appropriate inventory and technical resources (chairs, tables, closets, computers connected to the internet, multi-function copy machine).

Informational-communication technologies - In order to implement the PhD Education Program in Theology and support its administration, the University uses informational-communication technologies. Proper program/software support is available for the PhD Education Program in Theology. The existing computer technology responds to modern requirements, is connected to the Internet and is available to students, academic, invited and administrative staff. In order to provide students with access to assessment, monitor student performance and facilitate the learning process, the University uses computer-based online management system to assess student's knowledge and organize teaching process. By using the University website, which contains a catalog of educational programs, other information related to the implementation of educational programs and operation of the academic process, etc. the University ensures the publicity and accessibility of information.

The structure of the program

The PhD Program in Theology consists of educational and research components. The volume of the study component is 58 ECTS credits, which consists of compulsory and optional study courses. The total amount of credits for compulsory courses is 48 ECTS and for elective courses is 10 ECTS. The study courses are divided into 3 semesters, the doctoral student must complete 17 ECTS credits in the first semester, 26 ECTS credits in the second semester and 15 ECTS credits in the third semester.

The research component involves the completion of a doctoral dissertation. When working on the research component, the doctoral student goes through three colloquia, which include processing, writing and discussing part of the dissertation with the supervisor, discussing it before the industry commission. When defending each colloquium, the doctoral candidate must receive a positive recommendation, which means a positive assessment of the colloquium by the majority of the visiting committee. During the colloquium, the doctoral student is not counted and points are not given.

Doctoral dissertations can be defended in the 6th semester. Issues related to the defense of the doctoral thesis, program preconditions and implementation are determined by "PhD Provision of Sulkhan-Saba Orbeliani" approved by the University Rector.

For a student enrolled in the PhD program via mobility, a course within 10 credits may also be recognized in elective courses, if its goals and results correspond to the level of the PhD program. The qualification requirements for the applicants of the PhD Program in Theology apply to those wishing to use mobility.

Educational program curriculum

№	Admission Requirement	Module/Subject	ECTS credits						Student's Academic Workload		
			I year						Contact hours	Independent hours	
			II Year								
			III Year								
Semester											
			I	II	III	IV	V	VI			
Learning component											
Mandatory academic courses											
1.	None	Theological Hermeneutics and Research Methods in Theology	7/175						33	142	
2.	None	Academic Writing and Dissertation Architectonics		10/250					40	210	
3.	None	Modern teaching methods		6/150					33	117	
4.	Modern teaching methods	Professor's Assistance			5/125				11	114	
5.	Theological Hermeneutics and Research Methods in Theology	Research seminar on the history of theology		10/250					8	242	

6.	Theological Hermeneutics and Research Methods in Theology	Research Seminar on Systematic Theology			10/250				8	242
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Elective learning courses												
1.	None	University Curricula Development Principles	10/250							33	217	
2.	None	Preparation and management of research projects	10/250							33	215	
In a Semester			17	26	15							
In a year			43		15							
Total											58	

Map of the program objectives and learning outcomes

Program Objectives	Program Outcomes			
	A	B	C	D
In-depth scientific analysis of the current issues in theology, result-oriented research and creation of new knowledge	√	√		
Preparation of researchers and academic staff focused on the challenges in theology and church	√	√		√
Contribute to the development of theology by creating high quality scientific papers.			√	√

Map of learning outcomes and compulsory training courses of the program

№	Module/Subject	Course status		The Program Learning Outcomes			
				A	B	C	D
1.	Theological Hermeneutics and Research Methods in Theology	D	M		+	+	
2.	Academic Writing and Dissertation Architectonics		M	+			
3.	Modern teaching methods	D	M			+	
4.	Professor's Assistance	D	M			+	
5.	Research seminar on the history of theology		M	+	+	+	+
6.	Research Seminar on Systematic Theology		M	+	+	+	+

Course status

I - Introduction Courses (Introduction)	D - Developing Courses (Developing)	P - Practical Courses (Practical)	M - Master Courses (Master)

Map of the learning outcomes of the compulsory and elective courses of the program

#	Subject	Learning outcomes		
		Knowledge and understanding	Skill	Responsibility and Autonomy
Mandatory academic courses				
1.	Theological Hermeneutics and Research Methods in Theology	+	+	
2.	Academic Writing and Dissertation Architectonics	+	+	+
3.	Modern teaching methods	+	+	
4.	Professor's Assistance	+	+	+
5.	Research seminar on the history of theology	+	+	+
6.	Research Seminar on Systematic Theology	+	+	+
Elective learning courses				
7.	University Curricula Development Principles	+	+	
8.	Preparation and management of research projects	+	+	